GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EARTH SCIENCES
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:211
ANSWERED ON:16.11.2007
PURCHASE OF SUPER COMPUTER FOR WEATHER FORECASTING
Owaisi Shri Asaduddin

Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the instruments/computers available with the Government for weather forecasting, ocean information, tropical meteorology have been outdated;

(b) if so, whether the Government is planning to buy super computers for tracking changes in the climate of the country;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the funds allocated for the purpose during the last three years and current financial year?

Answer

MINISTER OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL)

(a) Not totally, Sir. Although, India Meteorological Department (IMD) has been upgrading its instruments /computers from time to time, there exists an urgent requirement of rapidly upgrading and expanding the density of observational network and enhancing forecasting capabilities by employing advanced prediction models/tools.

(b) & (c) Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has taken major initiative for procurement of Supercomputers /High Performance Computers (HPCs) for use in its various centres - IMD, National Centre for Medium Range Weather Forecasting (NCMRWF), Noida (U.P.), Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune and Indian National Center for Ocean Information Services(INCOIS), Hyderabad. HPC infrastructure shall be used to run advanced numerical models for weather, ocean state and climate prediction. Actions for procurement of HPCs have already been initiated.

(d) During the last 3-years, a sum of Rs. 29crores has been spent on upgrading existing computers. A sum of Rs. 100crores is provided for the HPC Procurements during the first 2-years of the XI plan. Allocation of Rs. 700crores is kept for observational network modernization during the first 2-3 years of the XI plan.